Implementation of PURA scheme

112. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Provision of Urban Amenities in Rural Areas (PURA) Scheme is being implemented in 7 States in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government will extend this scheme to Tamil Nadu as well?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH): (a) to (b) Yes, Sir. The Provision of Urban Amenities in Rural Areas (PURA) scheme is presently being implemented in 7 States *viz.* Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Orissa and Uttar Pradesh on pilot basis.

(c) The Government would be considering the case of Tamil Nadu also for extension of the scheme along with that of other States when based on the experience of these pilot, projects the scheme is extended to other States.

Bio-Diesel produced from 'Jatropha' seeds

†113. SHRI SURENDRA LATH: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any action to develop bio-diesel produced from 'Jatropha' seeds;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the quantum to alternative fuel estimated to be produced every year; and

(d) the details of public sector oil companies interested to promote 'Jatropha' farming by way of giving subsidy and loan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI A. NARENDRA): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. The Ministry of Rural Development has been identified as the nodal ministry for launching the National Mission on Bio-Diesel as recommended in the Planning

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Commission's Report on Development of Bio-fuel. For this purpose, a Detailed Project Report (DPR) has been submitted for the "in-principle approval" of the Planning Commission. The DPR proposed a Demonstration Project for promotion of Jatropha cultivation in forest and non-forest areas (2.00 lakh ha non-forest lands and 2.00 lakh ha forest lands), especially in wastelands, over a period of 5 years.

(c) After stabilization of yield, the seed from the 4 lakh ha Jatropha plantations is expected to produce about 4 lakh tons of bio-diesel per year as an alternative to petroleum diesel.

(d) Under the Bio-Diesel Purchase Policy announced by the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas on 9th October 2005, with effect from 1.1.2006, the public sector oil marketing companies will purchase bio-diesel at a uniform price of Rs. 25 per litre, which meets the fuel quality standard prescribed by the Bureau of Industrial Standards (BIS) specification formulated *vide* PCD3(2242)C dated 26.7.2004. The uniform price once fixed shall be in operation for six months, at the end of which it would be reviewed. At present, the public sector oil companies have no plan to promote Jatropha plantation through subsidies and loans on their own.

Neglect of Orissa under NREGS

114. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a gross neglect of Orissa under the National Rural Employment Guarantee scheme;

(b) whether it is also a fact that despite earmarking 29 backward districts of Orissa by the Planning Commission, the Centre has included only 18 districts for implementation of the programme; and

(c) if so, the reasons for this gross neglect when the most-backward State with the lowest per capita income in the country deserves the most?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) and (b) The National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005 was notified in the Gazette of India on 7th September, 2005 and has so far not been launched in any